

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, MB, PFOR

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN FRENCH GUIANA

REF: MARTINIQUE A-44

1. WASHINGTON POST JANUARY 3 CARRIED ARTICLE BY GREG CHAMBERLAIN IN MANCHESTER GUARDIAN DATE-LINED PARIS REPORTING THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT "HAS ARRESTED MOST OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION LEADERS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN TERRITORY OF FRENCH GUIANA AND IS PREPARING TO PUT THEM ON TRIAL FOR SUBVERSION IN AN EFFORT TO STAMP OUT GROWING UNREST IN ITS LARGEST OVERSEAS POSSESSION." ARTICLE CHARGES THAT EIGHT OPPOSITION FIGURES, INCLUDING TEACHERS, JOURNALISTS, A LAWYER, AND A DOCTOR WERE FLOWN TO PARIS AND ARE HELD IN SANTE PRISON "IN THE FRENCH TRADITION OF TRANSPORTING OP-
PONENTS IN THE COLONIES TO FRANCE FOR 'SECURITY REASONS.'" ONLY DETAINEE NAMED IS GUY LAMAZE, DESCRIBED AS TEACHER WHO HEADS THE MOST ACTIVE OPPOSITION GROUP WHICH FAVORS INDEPENDENCE. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT PRISONERS WILL BE TRIED
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BY "SPECIAL COURT" ORIGINALLY SET UP TO DEAL WITH ALGERIAN

SECRET ARMY ORGANIZATION, WHICH IN RECENT YEARS HAS TRIED
GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE MILITANTS.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT THE EIGHT
WERE PLANNING ATTACKS IN CAYENNE ON CHRISTMAS EVE, AND
THAT ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND DOCUMENTARY PROOF HAVE BEEN

SEIZED. CAYENNE ALLEGED TO BE IN "VIRTUAL STATE OF SIEGE"
WITH RIOT POLICE BROUGHT IN FROM GUADELOUPE.

3. LENGTHY ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT NEW POLITICAL GROUPS AND
PUBLICATIONS WHICH APPEARED LAST YEAR SERVED AS "BACK-
BONE" FOR UNREST, BEGINNING LAST SEPTEMBER AND NOVEM-
BER. CAYENNE MAYOR LEOPOLD HEDER SAID TO LIKEN PRESENT
TENSION TO THAT IN ALGERIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. FURTHER
BACKGROUND MENTIONS GOF LACK OF ATTENTION TO GUIANA,
RACIAL AND ECONOMIC STRAINS THERE, AND DOUBT THAT LOCAL
DEMANDS FOR AUTONOMY WILL BE MET BY GOF.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER REPORTING ON
ALLEGED DISTURBANCES AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.

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